

AMENDMENTIn the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Previously amended) A leg-rope connection device for connecting two portions of broken leg-rope, including a rigid polymeric housing which encloses an end part of each of the two portions of broken leg-rope, and at least one clamping member operatively associated with the housing, the at least one clamping member being movable between a first position to enable positioning of broken leg-rope within the housing and a second position sufficiently close to the housing for compressive clamping of the two portions of broken leg-rope between said at least one clamping member and said housing, whereby said at least one clamping member associates with a first portion of broken leg-rope and at least one clamping member associates with a second portion of broken leg-rope in a manner such that each end part of the first and second portions of broken leg-rope are retained within the housing when subjected to typical forces applied to a leg-rope when in use.
 2. (Previously amended) A leg-rope connection device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one clamping member comprises two clamping members.
 3. (Previously amended) A leg-rope connection device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one clamping member is rotatable with respect to the housing.
 4. (Previously amended) A leg-rope connection device as claimed in 3, wherein the device is additionally provided with at least one tool member incorporated with the at least one clamping member.
 5. (Previously amended) A leg-rope connection device for connecting two portions of broken leg-rope, including:
 - a leg-rope guide integrally formed within a housing;
 - a first arm member operatively associated with the housing, said first arm member able to be rotated about a first hinge located at a first distal end of the housing;
 - a second arm member operatively associated with the housing, said second arm member able to be rotated about a second hinge located at a second distal end of the housing;

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first clamping means associated with the first arm member for retaining an end part of a first portion of broken leg-rope within the housing when the first arm member is rotated to cause the first clamping means to compress the first portion of broken leg-rope; and

second clamping means associated with the second arm member for retaining an end part of a second portion of broken leg-rope within the housing when the first arm member is rotated to cause the second clamping means to compress the second portion of broken leg-rope.

6. (Original) A leg-rope connection device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the leg-rope guide is substantially semi-circular in cross-section.
7. (Previously amended) A leg-rope connection device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the first clamping means are integrally formed as part of the first arm member and the second clamping means are integrally formed as part of the second arm member.
8. (Previously amended) A leg-rope connection device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the first clamping means and the second clamping means are at least partly contained on the internal surface of the leg-rope guide.
9. (Presently amended) A leg-rope connection device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the first arm member and the second arm member are identical.
10. (Previously amended) A leg-rope connection device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the first and second clamping means include a member selected from the group consisting of cleat, hump, tenon, lip, protrusion, sawtooth, wedge, angled surface, incline, pin, tapered member, spike, and serration which acts to compress the leg-rope when an arm member is closed.
11. (Previously amended) A leg-rope connection device as claimed in ~~any one of the~~ claims 5, wherein an exterior of the leg-rope connection device is shaped to reduce frictional drag while moving through water.
12. (Previously amended) A leg-rope connection device as claimed in claim 5 wherein the first hinge and the second hinge are mechanisms selected from the group consisting of pin and hole mechanisms and protrusion and recess mechanisms.
13. (Previously amended) A leg-rope connection device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the first arm member includes a first tool member.
14. (Previously amended) A leg-rope connection device as claimed in claim 13, wherein

the second arm member includes a second tool member.

15. (Previously amended) A leg-rope connection device as claimed in claim 14, wherein either of the tool members is interchangeable with an alternate tool member.

16. (Previously amended) A leg-rope connection device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the tool member is selected from the group consisting of a screwdriver, an alan-key, and a blade.

17. (Previously amended) A leg-rope connection device as claimed claim 5, wherein at least part of the device is manufactured from a rigid polymeric material.

18. (Previously amended) A leg-rope connection device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the device is provided with a portion of surface that is selected from the group consisting of a textured, roughened, teathed, jagged, and serrated surface.

19. (Withdrawn - Previously amended) A method of repairing a broken leg-rope, including the steps of:

providing a leg-rope connection device;

inserting a first portion of the broken leg-rope into a first end of the leg-rope connection device;

inserting a second portion of the broken leg-rope into a second end of the leg-rope connection device;

closing a first clamping member operatively associated with a housing of the leg-rope connection device by hand, whereby said first clamping member associates with the first portion of the broken leg-rope in a manner such that said first portion of the broken leg-rope is retained within the housing; and

closing a second clamping member operatively associated with the housing of the leg-rope connection device by hand, whereby said second clamping member associates with the second portion of the broken leg-rope in a manner such that said second portion of the broken leg-rope is retained within the housing.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously added) The leg-rope connection device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least part of an interior surface of the housing being textured.

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23. (Previously added) The leg-rope connection device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an exterior of the leg-rope connection device being shaped to reduce frictional drag while moving through water.

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